



Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference G104008TOTO	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Form PCT/IPEA/416	
International application No. PCT/JP2004/004638	International filing date (day/month/year) 31 March 2004 (31.03.2004)	Priority date (day/month/year) 31 March 2003 (31.03.2003)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC C07K 17/14, C12N 11/14, B01J 31/38, 35/02, A61L 2/16, G01N 33/543, 33/547, 33/553, A61K 47/48, 47/02, 33/00, 41/00		
Applicant TOTO LTD.		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.

3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:

a. (*sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau*) a total of 1 sheets, as follows:

sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).

sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.

b. (*sent to the International Bureau only*) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).

4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I	Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II	Priority
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 28 October 2004 (28.10.2004)	Date of completion of this report 15 February 2005 (15.02.2005)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/004638

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is language of a translation furnished for the purpose of:

international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report):

The international application as originally filed/furnished
 the description:

pages _____ 1-20, as originally filed/furnished
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the claims:

pages _____ 2-17, as originally filed/furnished
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
 pages* _____ 1 received by this Authority on _____
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on 31 January 2005 (31.01.2005)

the drawings:

pages _____ 1/4-4/4, as originally filed/furnished
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (specify): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (specify): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP04/004638

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-17	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-17	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Document 1: WO, 02-34301, A1 (Noritake Co., Ltd.), 2 May, 2002 (02.05.02)

Document 2: JP, 63-98384, A (Unitika Ltd.), 28 April, 1988 (28.04.88)

Document 3: JP, 5-276945, A (Unitika Ltd.), 26 October, 1993 (26.10.93)

Document 4: JP, 7-236690, A (Unitika Ltd.), 12 September, 1995 (12.09.95)

The subject matters of claims 1-17 do not appear to involve an inventive step in view of documents 1-4. Document 1 describes a titanium-dioxide complex in the form of micro particles capable of distinguishing molecules, wherein molecules capable of bonding specifically to target molecules are immobilized via a plurality of cross-linking molecules. The use of hydrophilic macromolecules such as polycarboxylic acid in immobilizing a physiologically active substance was a widespread practice prior to the filing of the present application (for example, see documents 2-4). Accordingly, a person skilled in the art could have easily conceived of the idea of using hydrophilic macromolecules such as polycarboxylic acid as cross-linking molecules in the titanium-dioxide in the form of particles complex capable of distinguishing molecules described in document 1.